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Committee of Experts on Public Administration
Seventeenth session
23–27 April 2018
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional annotated agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Readying institutions and policies for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
   (a) Promoting policy and institutional coherence in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in depth by the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the other Goals;
   (b) Building capacities and effectively mobilizing, allocating and managing budgetary resources for implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
   (c) Building the awareness, competencies and skills of civil servants at the national and local levels.
4. Building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels:
   (a) Elaborating principles of effective governance for sustainable development, building on the work of the Committee at its sixteenth session;
   (b) Engaging accountability mechanisms, civil society and the media in advising on and overseeing implementation of the Goals;
   (c) Nature and challenges of misconduct and corruption in the public sector, and ways forward;
   (d) Ensuring that civil society actors are able to participate in decision-making on implementing the Goals and contribute to progress;
   (e) Promoting innovative ways of delivering services and open government in support of the Goals.
5. Supporting the transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies by enhancing and equipping institutions.

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(a) Changes required in institutions and public administration at all levels to foster the transformation of societies required under the 2030 Agenda in urban and rural communities;

(b) Ensuring that actions by the private sector are compatible with sustainable development pathways through traditional and innovative forms of regulation and management.

6. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Committee.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventeenth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

The Committee will elect a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur for the seventeenth session. The Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur constitute the Bureau. In accordance with established practice, the officers will continue to act as the Bureau during the intersessional period that follows the seventeenth session in preparation for the eighteenth session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The Committee is invited to adopt the agenda of the seventeenth session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2017/253 of 7 July 2017.

The Committee is scheduled to meet from Monday to Friday, 23 to 27 April 2018. The morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Informal meetings and events may be held at other times.

Documentation

Provisional annotated agenda (E/C.16/2018/1)

3. Readying institutions and policies for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

(a) Promoting policy and institutional coherence in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in depth by the 2018 high-level political forum and the other Goals

In previous sessions, the Committee has advised on various aspects of policy and institutional coherence such as integrated policymaking, strengthening administrative capacity, national institutional arrangements and strategies, policy coherence within specific policy domains, the promotion of administration-wide strategies, participation and partnership, systemic approaches to disaster risk management and the complexity of governance. At the seventeenth session, the Committee will expand on its work related to the transformation of institutions to address the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, including with specific reference to the Goals to be reviewed in depth in 2018 at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, namely, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, and sustainable use and preservation of land resources and ecosystems (Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15), along with Goal 17 on means of implementation. Consideration may also be given to practical tools to appraise institutional capacity for integrated policymaking to address the interrelated nature of the Goals.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on promoting policy and institutional coherence in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in depth at the 2018 high-level political forum and the other Goals (E/C.16/2018/2)

Conference room paper submitted by the Secretariat on appraising institutional capacity for integrated policymaking

(b) Building capacities and effectively mobilizing, allocating and managing budgetary resources for implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The Committee discussed issues of public finance in the context of the Millennium Development Goals at its first session, in 2002, and deliberated on government expenditure data and taxation at its third session, in 2004. More recently, the Committee has stressed the need for adequate public resources to deliver on commitments and responsibilities at national and subnational levels and has drawn renewed attention to the critical need for effective mobilization, allocation and management of budgetary resources for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and related capacity needs. At its seventeenth session, the Committee may wish to consider the issue of public finance and budgeting in the context of target 16.6 on developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, and with respect to achieving the Goals as a whole.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on mobilizing, allocating and managing budgetary resources for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (E/C.16/2018/3)

(c) Building the awareness, competencies and skills of civil servants at the national and local levels

Human resource questions have been of concern to the Committee since its inception and have been studied from a variety of perspectives, with policy advice provided to the Economic and Social Council on matters such as strategies for high-quality staffing in the public sector, building governance and public administration capacities in crisis and post-conflict situations, the human factor in capacity-building, performance management in government, local administration and leadership. In recent sessions, the Committee has considered human resources development and institutional leadership issues, in particular in relation to the 2030 Agenda. At the seventeenth session, the Committee will be invited to consider actions needed to build the awareness and competencies of a forward-looking civil service, as well as the specific operational and policy skills that civil servants will need at both the national and local levels to contribute most effectively to the attainment of the Goals and to leaving no one behind, a core principle of the 2030 Agenda.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on building the awareness, competencies and skills of civil servants at the national and local levels (E/C.16/2018/4)

4. Building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

(a) Elaborating principles of effective governance for sustainable development, building on the work of the Committee at its sixteenth session

At its fifteenth session, the Committee discussed the possibility of developing a set of internationally recognized principles of responsible and effective governance that could provide helpful guidance to countries in addressing a broad range of governance challenges associated with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Committee continued its consideration of the issue at its sixteenth session with an exploration of the purpose, scope and application of the proposed principles, as well as their potential elaboration in the form of concrete practices. At the seventeenth session, the Committee will further elaborate principles and practices of effective governance for

sustainable development, building on the conceptual framework presented at the sixteenth session with the essential elements of Goal 16 (namely, effectiveness, accountability and inclusiveness) at its core.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat prepared under the leadership of the experts on elaborating principles of effective governance for sustainable development (E/C.16/2018/5)

(b) Engaging accountability mechanisms, civil society and the media in advising on and overseeing implementation of the Goals

In previous sessions, the Committee has provided advice on the need for enhanced capacity of government and public administration to promote collaborative approaches, participatory governance, civil society and private sector involvement in implementation and review of the Goals, and the engagement of vulnerable groups. The Committee has also been concerned with important linkages between target 16.7 (on ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels) and other targets, notably 16.6 (on developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions) and 16.10 (on ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements), and to the achievement of the Goals as a whole. To facilitate deliberations, the Committee may wish to consider item 4 (b) together with items 4 (d) and 5 (b) on matters relating to participation and engagement in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

Documentation

Conference room paper submitted by the Secretariat on participation and engagement

(c) Nature and challenges of misconduct and corruption in the public sector, and ways forward

The Committee has extensively discussed corruption as a development challenge and the role of public administration in effectively preventing and curbing corrupt practices. Since 2015, issues relating to corruption prevention have been considered by the Committee in the context of achieving the Goals and the annual thematic reviews of the high-level political forum of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Committee has provided advice on corruption as a multidimensional phenomenon with multiple causes and effects, increasing trust through effective anti-corruption efforts, measures for preventing corruption and ending impunity, public integrity as a critical dimension of effective governance, the combining of broad and targeted approaches for effectively preventing corruption and corruption as a constraint to poverty eradication efforts. At its seventeenth session, the Committee may wish to consider the specific practice of protecting persons who report facts concerning corruption offences in the public sector.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on the question of the protection of whistle blowers (E/C.16/2018/6)

(d) Ensuring that civil society actors are able to participate in decision-making on implementing the Goals and contribute to progress

To facilitate deliberations, the Committee may wish to consider item 4 (d) together with items 4 (b) and 5 (b) on matters relating to participation and engagement in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

(e) Promoting innovative ways of delivering services and open government in support of the Goals

To facilitate deliberations, the Committee may wish to consider item 4 (e) together with item 5 (a) on matters relating to the transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.

5. Supporting the transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies: enhancing and equipping institutions

(a) Changes required in institutions and public administration at all levels to foster the transformation of societies required under the 2030 Agenda in urban and rural communities

At its seventeenth session, the Committee will discuss the changes required in institutions and public administration at all levels to foster the transformation of societies required under the 2030 Agenda in urban and rural communities, in accordance with the theme of the Economic and Social Council during its 2018 session. The Committee will also consider its contribution to the 2018 review of the high-level political forum on the theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies".

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on institutional transformation to strengthen the well-being of rural and urban communities: the case of Malaysia (E/C.16/2018/7)

Background note on the challenges for institutions in the transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies: draft contribution to the 2018 thematic review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development

(b) Ensuring that actions by the private sector are compatible with sustainable development pathways through traditional and innovative forms of regulation and management

To facilitate deliberations, the Committee may wish to consider item 5 (b) together with items 4 (b) and 4 (d) on matters relating to participation and engagement in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

6. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Committee

The Committee will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its eighteenth session. In its resolution 68/1, the General Assembly called upon the Economic and Social Council to invite its subsidiary bodies to contribute to its work, as appropriate, in keeping with the Council's agreed annual theme. The theme of the 2019 session of the Council will be "One world for all: empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies". The Committee may also wish to allow for consideration of a contribution to the 2019 theme of the high-level political forum on the theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality", to which the theme of the Council is closely related. It may be recalled that the Committee provides policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Council primarily through its sessional report and draft resolution, and to the high-level political forum through input to the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global level.

The high-level political forum in 2019 may be of special interest to the Committee since the forum will be convened that year at the ministerial level under the auspices

of the Economic and Social Council with a view to, inter alia, conducting an in-depth review of Goal 16. It will also be convened at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly, which will provide high-level political guidance on the 2030 Agenda and its implementation, identify progress and emerging challenges and mobilize further action to accelerate implementation.

The Committee may further wish to consider engaging in a reflection on a provisional programme of work for the period 2018-2021 that is contemporaneous with the current term of its members. In the past, the members have not engaged in such advanced planning, but may now wish to consider whether doing so would help to organize their work and enhance the profile of the Committee within the United Nations system through the forward-looking study of critical issues in governance and public administration relevant to the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventeenth session

The Committee will adopt a report to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council on the work of its seventeenth session. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1, the Committee will include in its report an executive summary, and the report will be concise and clearly identify the conclusions and recommendations and issues that may require attention and/or action by the Council. The Council may conduct an action-oriented review of the report and recommendations of the Committee, focusing attention on issues that require a prioritized and coordinated substantive response from the United Nations system as a whole. The Committee will also adopt its contribution to the 2018 thematic review of the high-level political forum.